

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the present application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remains under examination in the application are presented below. The claims are presented in ascending order and each includes one status identifier. Those claims not cancelled or withdrawn but amended by the current amendment utilize the following notations for amendment: 1. deleted matter is shown by strikethrough for six or more characters and double brackets for five or less characters; and 2. added matter is shown by underlining.

PENDING CLAIMS

1-2. (Cancel)

3. (Canceled)

4-6. (Cancel)

7. (Canceled)

8-9. (Cancel)

10-25. (Canceled)

26. (New) A furniture system comprising:

at least one elongate geometrically configured tube presenting a plurality of faces and defining at least one slot extending the length of at least one of the plurality of faces, the at least

one slot having an outer portion defined by a pair of opposing substantially parallel edges separated by a first width dimension and an inner portion presenting a second width dimension, wherein the at least one slot defines a locking depth dimension, and wherein the second width dimension is larger than the first width dimension;

at least one cross support defining at least one locking body aperture and a cam aperture, wherein the locking body aperture intersects the cam aperture;

a cam rotatably disposed within the at least one cam aperture, the cam including a cam opening disposed proximate the locking body aperture; and

an elongate locking body presenting a pair of opposing ends with an engagement member disposed at one of the opposing ends and a cam connector at the other of the opposing ends, the engagement member presenting a leading edge and an opposing trailing edge and defining a cross-sectional dimension between the leading and trailing edges, wherein the cross-sectional dimension is selected relative to the first and second width dimensions of the at least one slot so as to enable the engagement member to be engaged in the at least one slot at any point along the length of the at least one slot by first advancing the leading edge of the engagement member through the outer portion and into the inner portion of the at least one slot, and next advancing the trailing edge of the engagement member through the outer portion and into the inner portion of the at least one slot,

wherein the locking body mates the at least one tube to the at least one cross support when the engagement member is disposed within the at least one slot and the cam connector is disposed within the cam aperture of the cam so that rotating the cam in a first direction causes a linear motion of the locking body at least equal to the locking depth within the locking body

aperture, so as to draw the at least one cross support and at least one tube together and secure the at least one cross support to the at least one tube.

27. (New) The furniture system of claim 26, wherein the engagement member is generally disk shaped.

28. (New) The furniture system of claim 26, wherein the engagement member is polygonal.

29. (New) The furniture system of claim 28, wherein the engagement member is rectangular.

30. (New) The furniture system of claim 26, wherein the cross support is a panel.

31. (New) The furniture system of claim 26, wherein the tube has four faces, each face defining at least one slot extending the length of the face.

32. (New) The furniture system of claim 26, wherein the system includes a plurality of tubes and a plurality of cross-supports.

33. (New) A furniture system comprising:

a plurality of host structures, each host structure comprising at least one slot extending the length of a face of the host structure, the at least one slot having an outer portion defined by a pair of opposing substantially parallel edges separated by a first width dimension and an inner

portion presenting a second width dimension, wherein the at least one slot defines a locking depth dimension, and wherein the second width dimension is larger than the first width dimension;

a plurality of cross supports, the cross supports defining at least one locking body aperture and a cam aperture, wherein the locking body aperture intersects the cam aperture;

a cam rotatably disposed within the cam aperture, said cam including a cam opening disposed proximate the locking body aperture; and

a locking body having an engagement member at a distal end and a cam connector at a proximal end, the engagement member presenting a leading edge and an opposing trailing edge and dimensioned to be engagable in the at least one slot at any point along the length of the at least one slot by first advancing the leading edge of the engagement member through the outer portion and into the inner portion of the at least one slot, and next advancing the trailing edge of the engagement member through the outer portion and into the inner portion of the at least one slot,

wherein the locking body mates the host structure to the cross support when the engagement member is disposed within the slot of the host structure and the cam connector is disposed within the cam aperture of the cam so that rotating the cam in a first direction causes a linear motion of the locking body at least equal to the locking depth within the locking body aperture, so as to draw the cross support and host structure together and secure the cross support to the host structure.

34. (New) The furniture system of claim 33, wherein each of the plurality of host structures is a geometrically configured tube.

35. (New) The furniture system of claim 33, wherein the engagement member is generally disk shaped.

36. (New) The furniture system of claim 33, wherein the engagement member is polygonal.

37. (New) The furniture system of claim 36, wherein the engagement member is rectangular.

38. (New) The furniture system of claim 33, wherein the cross support is a panel.

39. (New) The furniture system of claim 33, wherein the host structure has four faces, each face defining at least one slot extending the length of the face.